(b) if so, whether Government are aware that CII has projected GDP to expand by 8.6 per cent in the full year compared with 8.4 per cent in 2005-06; and

(c) what is the actual GDP growth rate during 2006-07 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per the Advanced Estimats of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) the growth of GDP at factor cost at 1999-2000 prices, during 2006-07 is estimated at 9.2 per cent as compared to 8.6 per cent growth projected by CII in December, 2006 in their publication titled 'State of the Economy'.

(c) CSO has also released estimates for GDP growth for the three completed quarters of 2006-07. GDP at factor cost at 1999-2000 prices has grown at 8.9 per cent, 9.2 per cent and 8.6 per cent during the first, second and the third quarters, respectively, which together cover the period April-December, 2006.

Decline in bank deposits from household sector

770. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that bank deposits from household sector is declining during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to issue directives to various banks for formulating deposit products to attract house hold sector in to investing in bank deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Upliftment of BPL population

771. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population living below the poverty line did not get any

benefit from 8 per cent growth rate during the last four years and about 10 per cent of all-India rural population is living at just Rs. 9 per day; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to uplift them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The poverty ratio at the national level which was at 36 per cent (as per Uniform Recall Period method) in 1993-94 fell to 27.8 per cent in 2004-05 as per the provisional data of the latest NSS 61st Round. Poverty ratio (as per Mixed Recall Period method) which was at 26.1 per cent in 1999-2000 fell to 22 per cent in 2004-05 as per the NSS 61st Round. Thus the oveall poverty ratio has come down over the years. Despite the high rate of growth of GDP and the efforts of the Government at poverty alleviation, the per capita consumption expenditure of 9.9 per cent of the rural population in the country is less than Rs. 9.00 per day or Rs. 270 per month in 2004-05 as per the NSS 61st Round.

Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty, namely, (i) acceleration of economic growth with focus on sectors which are employment intesive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty and employment programmes which include Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, Swarana Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme and Indira Awaas Yojana. Besides, under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and various welfare schemes, Government has also been providing food grains (rice and wheat) to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families at subsidized prices.

Acts of industrial sector on inflation

772. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to him, the rise in the rate of inflation is attributed to acts of industrial and business sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and